

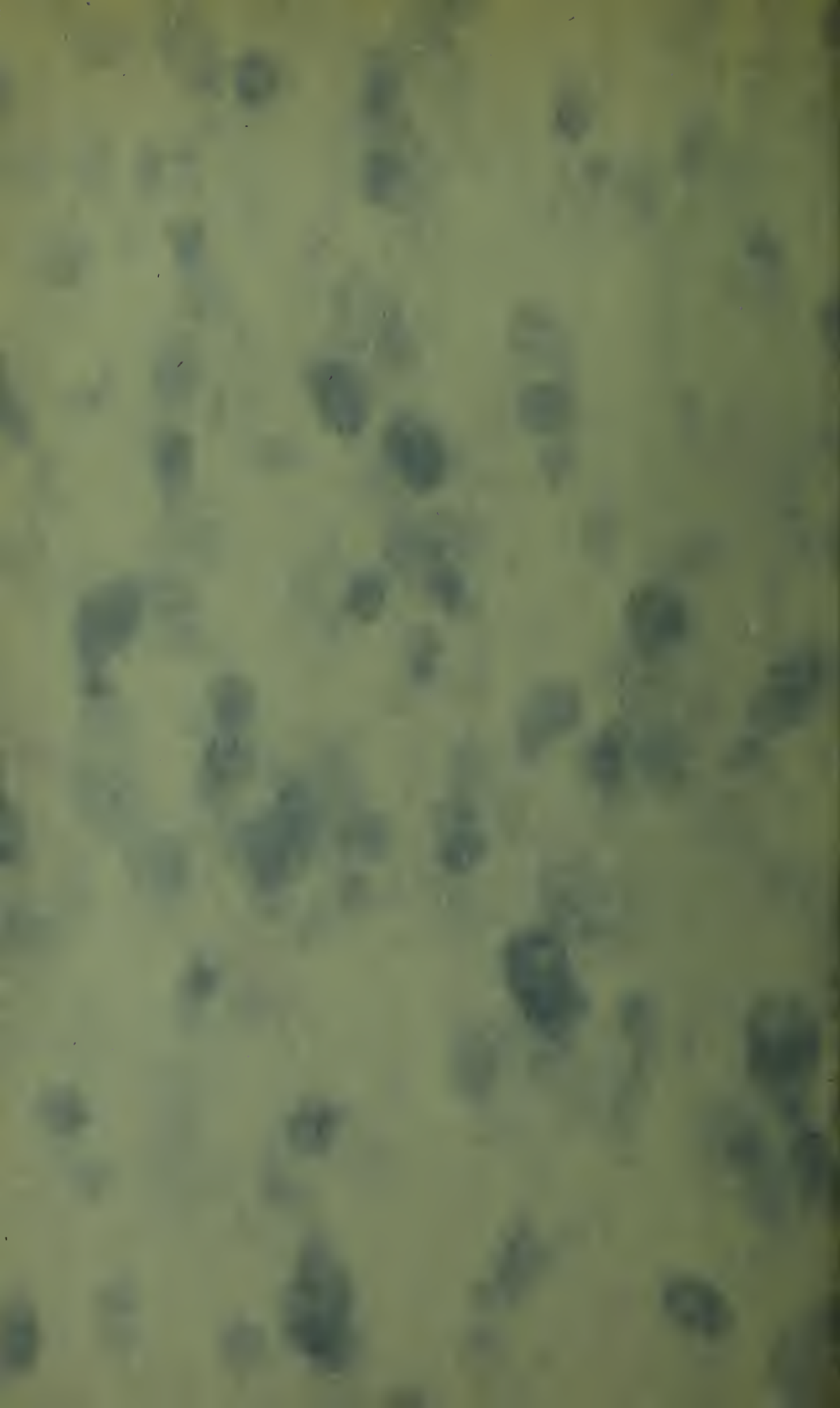
4412 (1) DARTFORD

Borough of Dartford



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR 1948.

T. FARTHING,  
Medical Officer of Health.



# BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

## *Annual Report for 1948 of the Medical Officer of Health.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
DARTFORD,

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,  
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

MADAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**THOMAS FARTHING,**

Medical Officer of Health.

### STAFF.

\*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B.(Edin.).—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.

†\*DR. B. HEWLETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Clinic Medical Officer,

\*W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.—Chief Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Meat and Other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts. (Retired 31.3.48.)

\*T. H. IDDISON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.—Additional Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Meat and other Food Inspector). Chief Sanitary Inspector from 1.4.48.

\*A. GARTSIDE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.—Additional Sanitary Inspector.

R. K. CROW, A.R.S.I.—Additional Sanitary Inspector, from 1.4.48.

†\*MISS B. HOATHER.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., S.C.M.,

†\*MRS. A. M. WALTON.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., S.C.M.,

MISS E. SORRELL.—Chief Clerk.

MISS P. E. BROWN.—Clerk.

\* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

† Transferred to Kent County Council, 4th July, 1948.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1948) ...	39,930
Population (Census, 1931) ... ..	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948), according to Rate Books	10,425
Rateable Value ... ..	£298,310
Sum represented by 1d. rate ... ..	£1,244

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,234 statute acres, land and water.

The district is chiefly an industrial one and the area of land available for development is rapidly diminishing. The majority of development which has taken place during the post-war period has been in the Temple Hill area of the Eastern part of the town where good progress is being made with the erection of a municipally owned neighbourhood unit.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institution population as the following institutions are situate in the district:—

Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach Hospitals.  
Bexley Hospital.  
West Hill Hospital.  
St. Vincent's Industrial School.

## STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are:—

Engineering.	Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.
Paper Making.	Flour Milling.

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

## OPEN SPACES.

The District is provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include:—

Dartford Heath	... ..	340 acres.
Central Park	... ..	27 acres.
Hesketh Park	... ..	10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all these open spaces.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1948.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births.—	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	365	333	698
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	15	9	24
							380	342	722
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population							...	...	18.08
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period							...	...	17.9



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Causes of Death.										Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	2	2
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Ac. polio-myel. and polio enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
12.	Ac. inf. enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. oesoph and uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	6
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	12	12
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	17	17
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	15	15
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	50	50
20.	Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	3	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	8
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	1
29.	Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
32.	Congenital mal.; birth inj.; Infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	1
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	8	8
										195	151



# SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1944—1948.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure) ... ..	33,910	34,280	37,030	38,020	39,930
Births ... ..	651	581	729	816	722
Birth Rate ... ..	19.19	16.9	19.68	21.45	18.08
Still-births ... ..	18	18	19	15	14
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9
Deaths ... ..	367	354	369	392	346
Death Rate ... ..	10.82	10.3	9.94	10.31	8.66
Death Rate (England & Wales)	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year	26	17	18	28	17
Infantile Death Rate ... ..	39.94	29.08	24.68	34.31	23.54
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales). ... ..	46	46	43	41	34

## LABORATORY WORK.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

## **BYE-LAWS.**

The Corporation have Bye-laws relating to the following:—

- Building.
- Common Lodging Houses.
- Dartford Heath.
- Fish Frying.
- Good Rule and Government.
- Houses Let in Lodgings.
- Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).
- New Streets.
- Nuisances.
- Offensive Trades.
- Pleasure Grounds.
- Prevention of Nuisance from Filth and Rubbish.
- Removal of Offensive Matter.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Tents, Vans and Sheds.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

### ***Water Supply.***

The Borough is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board. The supply is from deep chalk wells and is satisfactory in both quality and quantity. The water is chlorine treated, and has no plumbo-solvent action.

Frequent tests are carried out by the Board and in addition periodical samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

With the exception of eight houses, all houses in the Borough are supplied from the Board's mains. Of the eight houses not on the Board's mains seven are supplied from deep artesian wells.

Samples of water from five large factories with their own private bore hole supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

### ***Drainage and Sewerage.***

The district is main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford. Their system of treatment is satisfactory, and no complaints have been received regarding the outfall works during the year.

There are only 107 houses and 11 factory premises, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. Over 99% of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

### ***Rivers and Streams.***

No cases of river pollution were dealt with during the year.



**Closet Accommodation.**

The system is a water carriage one. In the portions of the area where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned:—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	81 and 8 flats
Pail Closets	...	...	...	24

The cleansing of pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises. Cesspools are emptied by the Local Authority upon repayment.

**Scavenging.**

House refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping at the Corporation's Heath Lane Tip.

Routine treatment of the tip with a proprietary dressing containing D.D.T. has been carried out during the year. Apart from occasional complaints regarding flies during the very warm weather there has been no nuisance.

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.**

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following, which during this year were placed under the administrative control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector:—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1947:—

	1947	1948
Men ... ..	13,266	13,352
Boys ... ..	648	714
Women ... ..	5,941	4,750
Girls ... ..	430	379
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>20,245</b>	<b>19,195</b>

**Swimming Bath.**

The open-air Swimming Bath in Burnham Road has a continuous heating and chlorination plant. Samples of the water are taken from time to time and although the water is chlorinated so as to give a residual chlorine figure of 0.5 p.p.m. the bacteriological quality of the water was not consistently satisfactory during the year.

## ERADICATION OF VERMIN AND CLEANSING.

During the year disinfection was carried out at 36 houses by spraying with suitable insecticides. Where necessary the owners were requested to strip the rooms and loosen the skirting boards, etc.

The treatment of scabies is carried out at the Cleansing Station, King Edward Avenue.

During the year 15 males and 14 females were treated.

The cases were referred to the department by the medical practitioners or by the School Medical Service. As far as possible, the whole of the family are treated when a case is discovered.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspectors which is appended hereto.

## HOUSING.

Good progress has been made during the year in the provision of houses in the Borough. The number of houses completed during the year is 257, made up as follows:—

### By Corporation.

(a) By Apprentice Master Scheme	...	...	...	4
(b) Traditional Type Houses	...	...	...	134
(c) Permanent Non-Traditional (Easiform)	...	...	Type Houses	69

### By Private Builders.

(a) New Houses	...	...	...	28
(b) Bomb Damaged Houses Re-built	...	...	...	22

Total New Houses in Year	...	...	257
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## HOUSING ACT, 1936.

During 1948 the only premises to be represented as unfit for habitation were some fruit pickers' huts which were being used as permanent dwellings. The huts were of an old type and the owner gave an undertaking to demolish them, the tenants being rehoused by the Council.

A Closing Order was made in respect of two second floor bedrooms which had been let as a separate tenancy and were unfit for human habitation.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	74	...	5	13	39	13	2	2	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Erysipelas ... ..	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ... ..	97	3	9	12	61	6	6	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	299	10	65	90	128	2	3	1	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	49	7	6	15	20	...	1	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	3	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...

In addition the following cases were notified from Institutions:—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Erysipelas ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles ... ..	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...

## **SMALLPOX.**

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year.

## **DIPHTHERIA.**

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with three in 1947.

Contacts with cases notified, and also children referred to the Department by the school teachers, are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Up to the advent of the National Health Service Act anti-toxin was supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria, upon application to the local Infectious Diseases Hospital. It is now supplied under the scheme through the chemists and can be obtained from the Kent County Laboratory.

## **SCARLET FEVER.**

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified (exclusive of institutional cases) was 74, as compared with 69 in 1947.

Of these cases 54 were nursed at home and 20 removed to hospital.

There were no return cases during the year.

## **ENTERIC FEVER.**

No cases were notified during the year from residents in the Borough.

## **MEASLES.**

There were 299 cases of Measles during the year.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases are admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

## **INFLUENZA.**

The incidence of influenza was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

## **FOOD POISONING.**

No case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year: —

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—5	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5—10	1	....	1	....	....	....	1	....
10—15	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15—20	6	6	....	....	1	....	....	1
20—25	4	3	....	1	1	....	....	....
25—35	10	9	....	1	1	1	....	....
35—45	4	1	....	....	2	....	....	....
45—55	10	2	....	....	6	1	1	....
55—65	5	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Totals	46	21	1	2	12	2	2	1

19 of the 70 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 7 cases notified previous to 1948 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to three of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year:—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number on Register at commencement of Year	223	121	36	41	421
Number on Register at end of Year ... ..	237	132	36	40	445

## NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

The following are details in respect of services which were transferred to other authorities on July 4th, 1948, under the new National Health Service Act, 1946.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Clinics previously held in the Market Street premises continue at the same times as before, and the various services connected with them are still available. The following figures and particulars of these services are up to July 4th.

### *Particulars of Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic.*

Number of new entrants during the 6 months ... ..	340
Total number of children who attended during the period ...	1,041

### *Ante-Natal Clinic.*

Total number of cases on register during the 6 months ...	171
Number of new cases ... ..	88
Number of clinics held ... ..	26
Total number of attendances ... ..	599
Average attendance per clinic ... ..	23

### *Birth Control Clinic.*

Number of new cases ... ..	78
Total number of attendances ... ..	251

### *Maternity Service.*

Expectant mothers can be admitted to either the County Hospital or the Livingstone Hospital for their confinements and up to July 4th financial assistance was given according to the income of the applicants. Both the Home and Hospital Services are now free of charge.

In addition to the County Midwives, there is one midwife in private practise.

### *Puerperal Pyrexia.*

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the period from the County Hospital, and one was a home case.

### *Orthopaedic Treatment.*

26 children needing Orthopaedic Treatment were seen by the Specialist at the County Orthopaedic Clinic, West Hill, Dartford, and given treatment when necessary. Financial help was given in 10 cases where surgical appliances were recommended.

### *Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders, 1919 and 1921.*

During the first six months of the year 19 lbs. of dried milk were supplied free. The distribution of Liquid Milk and National Dried Milk, free or at a reduced price, is still undertaken by the Food Office.



## HOME VISITATION.

### VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the period:

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	...	277
Number of visits to infants under one year	...	...	...	...	1,274
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	...	2,116
Total visits made by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	<u>3,390</u>

In addition to these visits the following have been paid: —

Ante-Natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Death enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

### INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The two Health Visitors are appointed as Infant Life Protection Officers.

Number of visits paid to foster children	...	...	...	...	54
Number of foster mothers on register at end of period	...	...	...	...	13
Number of foster children on register at end of period	...	...	...	...	13

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

There has been no alteration in the facilities available for Immunisation against Diphtheria. An Immunisation Clinic is held weekly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic and, in addition, there is a scheme for immunisation by the medical practitioners in the district.

### DAY NURSERY.

The attendances at the Day Nursery at 21, West Hill, Dartford, were well maintained and many applicants for the admission of their children to the Nursery had to be disappointed, their names being added to a waiting list. The question of a second Day Nursery to replace the one in Oakfield Lane transferred to the Kent Education Committee, was considered. Owing to the lack of suitable houses in the area this project had not been commenced when the Nursery was taken over by the Kent County Council in July.

### HOME NURSING.

On July 4th this service was transferred to the Kent County Council and maintained free of charge.

## **HOSPITAL SERVICES.**

The whole of the Hospitals are now under the control of the Metropolitan South Eastern Regional Hospital Board. In addition to the County Hospital, Livingstone Hospital and the Bow Arrow Infectious Diseases Hospital, the London County Council Hospitals at Joyce Green and the Southern Hospital are included. A specialist service is established in each hospital.

## **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

The various Ambulance Services in the town were transferred to the Kent County Council on July 4th.

## **HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SCHEME.**

The Corporation had, up to July 4th, a scheme for the provision of Home and Domestic helps. This was transferred to the Kent County Council with other Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

A register was kept of women who were willing to assist when they were required.

The demand for Home and Domestic Helps to assist in cases of illness was steadily increasing when the scheme was transferred.

Appended hereto are the following:

- (1) Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
- (2) Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

MADAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

**THOMAS FARTHING,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# Annual Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MADAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report, which includes a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1948.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

### (a) *Complaints and Routine Visits in Connection with Nuisances.*

668 Complaints were investigated during the year. This figure includes 137 complaints in connection with obstructions of drainage systems, the drains concerned being cleared by the Public Health Department's labourer. Of the remaining complaints, many were made verbally to the Sanitary Inspectors whilst carrying out their routine duties.

Preliminary Notices Served ...	537	Complied with ...	557
Statutory Notices Served ...	73	Complied with ...	73

#### TABLE OF NUISANCES REMEDIED AND REPAIRS EFFECTED.

Accumulations of refuse removed ...	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulations of manure removed ...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals—Nuisances abated ...	...	...	...	...	6
Brickwork (a) repaired ...	...	...	...	...	52
(b) repointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	16
Ceilings (a) cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	15
(b) repaired	...	...	...	...	87
Cesspools (a) emptied ...	...	...	...	...	14
(b) repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Coppers repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	9
Doors—frames or fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	29
Drains (a) cleared by service of notice ...	...	...	...	...	23
(b) cleared by Department	...	...	...	...	137
(c) reconstructed ...	...	...	...	...	3
(d) repaired ...	...	...	...	...	—
(e) gully fenders repaired ...	...	...	...	...	6
(f) inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	—
(g) inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	9
(h) vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	...	59
Fireplaces (a) grates provided ...	...	...	...	...	10
(b) other repairs ...	...	...	...	...	18
Floors (a) floorboards repaired ...	...	...	...	...	36
(b) floor joists repaired ...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) sub-floor ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	7
Roofs (a) repaired ...	...	...	...	...	137
(b) stripped and re-roofed	...	...	...	...	2
(c) eavesgutters repaired ...	...	...	...	...	55
(d) down pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	...	15
Sinks (a) sinks renewed ...	...	...	...	...	15
(b) sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	21

Stairs	(a) new treads or risers	...	...	...	...	...	5
	(b) handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Walls	(a) cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	...	...	...	21
	(b) plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	70
	(c) dampness abated	...	...	...	...	...	55
Water supply	(a) taps, pipes, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	51
	(b) water storage tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Windows	(a) frames, sashes or casements repaired	...	...	...	...	...	60
	(b) glazing	...	...	...	...	...	22
	(c) sashcords, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
W.C.'s	(a) flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	45
	(b) W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	...	...	82
	(c) W.C. seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Yard paving	(a) repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
	(b) re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous defects not included above							35

### (b) Drainage Work.

Number of drains tested by water—new buildings	...	...	...	...	...	259
Number of drains tested by water—existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of drains tested by smoke—new buildings	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of drains tested by smoke—existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	321

### (c) Infectious Diseases.

Visits and investigations by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	147
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	27
Premises disinfected (all other infections)	...	...	...	...	...	77
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	74

During the year the investigation of all notified cases of Tuberculosis and routine disinfection upon removal was resumed.

### (d) Common Lodging House.

Seventy-five visits were paid to the Lodging House during the year. Infestation of the premises with bedbugs was dealt with and on two occasions it was necessary to de-louse persons and their bedding and clothing.

An application for the renewal of the registration of the Common Lodging House was considered in November, 1948, when it was decided to refuse registration on the grounds that the premises were unsuitable for use as a Common Lodging House and were not as regards sanitation and in other respects suitably equipped for use as such.

### (e) Atmospheric Pollution.

Eighteen observations of factory chimneys have been made during the year. With the exception of one persistent offender, no major nuisance is caused by factories within the Council's area.

The emission of black smoke from two factory premises was cured as a result of advice by the Sanitary Inspectors. The factory responsible for the regular emission

of black smoke burns a large quantity of low grade fuel and after an opportunity has been given for a major overhaul of steam raising plant, at present taking place, further observations will be made.

The district still continues under suitable climatic conditions, to be subject to heavy deposits of dust generated by the cement producing factories in the adjacent areas to the North and East.

**(f) Other Inspections.**

Apart from the figures included in the foregoing sections of the report, the following visits were made during the year:—

Fruit Pickers Huts	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Conveniences at Inns	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Other Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Slipper Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Re-inspections and Visits to Works in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,572
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	327

In all a total of 9,649 visits or inspections were made during the year, including visits to 1,827 premises in connection with rodent survey.

**HOUSING ACTS.**

Shortages of labour and materials are still responsible for the fact that very little routine work under the above Act and the Housing Consolidated Regulations has been carried out during the year, with the result that many of the houses in the older parts of the town are not in every respect fit for human habitation.

Unforeseen administrative delays arose in connection with the proposed Clearance Area in Heath Street, with the result that the number of houses occupied in this area at the end of 1948 was the same as in December, 1947, when the area was represented. Some of the houses in this area are in a deplorable condition and it is hoped that they will be vacated before the end of 1949.

Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	129
Notices Served	...	2	Notices complied with	...	...	2
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	None
Rooms or parts of house closed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits in connection with overcrowding, permitted numbers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	108
Visits to houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	20

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, Etc.**

**(a) Food Preparation Premises (Sec. 13).**

The campaign instituted last year in connection with the maintenance of a high standard of hygiene in food preparation premises was continued during 1948, and whilst during 1947 substantial improvements were obtained in restaurant kitchens, the emphasis during 1948 has been on Factory Canteens, Butchers Shops and premises used for the preparation of sausages and other preserved meats.



The standard of hygiene in Factory and School Canteens is, generally speaking, very satisfactory and the services of the Sanitary Inspector have been largely in an advisory capacity. The aluminium plaques issued by the British Tourist and Holidays Board in co-operation with the Ministries of Health and Food were supplied to all restaurant kitchens, school and factory canteens, butchers shops, etc. These plaques lay special emphasis upon the necessity of all food handling personnel washing their hands after using the toilet, failure to do this being considered an important factor in the origin and spread of Food Poisoning and other gastro-enteric conditions.

### (b) Premises used for the Sale of Ice Cream.

Number of Dealers registered ... ..	53
Number of Manufacturers registered ... ..	16
Number of Samples taken for bacteriological examination ...	42

Whilst the number of inspections of Ice Cream premises, namely 283, may appear excessive in view of the comparatively small number of premises registered, the results of these inspections have more than justified the amount of time devoted to them.

Of the 42 samples taken, 14 were in Grade I, 14 were in Grade II, 7 in Grade III and 7 in Grade IV and it is significant that those falling within Grades III and IV were samples taken after periods of comparative freedom from inspection.

Although 16 premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, manufacture actually took place at only 9 of the premises during the year. Four premises manufacture by the "hot mix" method.

### (c) Slaughterhouses.

There is only one licensed Slaughterhouse and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the Borough. In addition to the inspection of pigs slaughtered for home consumption by pig breeders, inspections have also been made of animals killed for consumption at a large Hospital within the Council's area and figures given for inspection of slaughterhouses and animals are inclusive.

	Cattle, excl. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed ... ..	None	None	2	None	135
Number inspected ... ..	None	None	2	None	135
All diseases, except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcase condemned ...	None	None	1	None	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	—	—	50 %	—	2.2 %
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcase condemned ...	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—



#### (d) Milk.

LICENCES, ETC.—The following are details in connection with licences issued and premises in use in the area:—

Number of milk producers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of dairies	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of registered retail purveyors with premises in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of registered retail purveyors with premises outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers' licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk supplementary licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised Milk Dealers' licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pasteurised Milk supplementary licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	4

SAMPLES.—During the year 12 samples of Designated Milk were taken, 9 Pasteurised and 3 Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised). One sample of Pasteurised milk failed to pass the Phosphatase Test.

Four samples of undesignated milk were submitted for examination from the farms of two producers in the area. Whereas the first two samples were unsatisfactory, later samples satisfied the methylene blue standards prescribed for designated milk. Samples from these farms were also submitted for examination for Tubercle and were found to be negative.

During the year one farm ceased milk production and of the three remaining producers in the area one is a large hospital which produces Tuberculin Tested milk for consumption in the hospital.

#### (e) Inspections.

The following is a table showing the number of inspections made of premises used in connection with the preparation of food:—

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Food Preparation General—Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	572
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Visits in connection with unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Notices served as a result of above inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Notices complied with as a result of above inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	43

#### (f) Food and Drug Sampling.

During the year 130 samples were obtained (62 Formal and 68 Informal). The following table shows the results of the analysis of these samples.—

	Formal.	Informal.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.	Remarks.
Apple Sauce (Tinned)	...	1	1	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	...	1	1	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	...	2	2	—	—
Brawn	...	1	1	—	—
Butter	...	4	4	—	—
Butter Flavouring	...	1	1	—	—
Total Carried Forward	...	5	5	10	—

	Formal.	Informal.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.	Remarks.
<i>Total Brought Forward</i> ...	5	5	10	—	
Cake Mixture ...	1	—	1	—	—
Camphorated Oil ...	—	1	1	—	—
Candied Peel ...	1	—	1	—	—
Cascara Sagrada ...	—	1	1	—	—
Castor Oil ...	—	2	2	—	—
Coffee ...	2	—	2	—	—
Coffee & Chicory Essence...	1	1	2	—	—
Cocoa ...	2	1	3	—	—
Cooking Fat ...	4	—	4	—	—
Custard Powder ...	—	1	1	—	—
Demerara Sugar ...	1	—	1	—	—
Dates ...	1	—	1	—	—
Enerjoids ...	1	—	1	—	—
Fish Cakes ...	1	—	1	—	—
Fish Paste ...	1	2	3	—	—
Gelatine ...	—	1	1	—	—
Ginger Wine Flavouring ...	—	1	1	—	—
Glycerine ...	—	2	2	—	—
Ground Cinnamon ...	—	1	1	—	—
Ground Ginger ...	1	—	1	—	—
Ground Mace ...	1	—	1	—	—
Ground Nutmeg ...	—	1	1	—	—
Horseradish Sauce ...	—	1	1	—	—
Ice Cream ...	—	3	3	—	—
Jam ...	1	1	1	1	Inferior.
Jelly (Raspberry) ...	—	1	1	—	—
Lard ...	1	—	1	—	—
Lemonade ...	1	—	1	—	—
Lemonade Crystals ...	—	2	2	—	—
Lemon Curd ...	1	—	1	—	—
Liquid Paraffin ...	—	1	1	—	—
Liver Sausage ...	1	—	1	—	—
Macaroni ...	—	1	1	—	—
Malted Milk Tablets ...	—	1	1	—	—
Margarine ...	1	—	1	—	—
Milk ...	20	22	42	—	—
Mustard ...	—	2	2	—	—
Oatmeal ...	—	1	1	—	—
Olive Oil ...	1	1	2	—	—
Pepper ...	2	1	3	—	—
Saccharin ...	—	1	1	—	—
Sausage Meat ...	2	1	2	1	Inferior.
Self Raising Flour ...	2	—	2	—	—
Semolina ...	1	—	1	—	—
Sweetened Fat ...	1	—	1	—	—
Syrup of Figs ...	—	2	2	—	—
Tea ...	—	1	1	—	—
Tomato Sauce ...	—	1	1	—	—
Vinegar (Malt) ...	4	1	5	—	—
Worcester Sauce ...	—	1	1	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2</b>	

### (g) *Unsound Food.*

The total quantity of unsound food dealt with during the year was 2 tons, 7 cwt., 1 qr., 27 lbs. This figure shows a substantial reduction upon last year's figure of 4 tons 11 cwts.

Details of the foods surrendered are tabulated below:—

						Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	6
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	9
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	26
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	0	2
Fruit and Vegetables:									
Apples	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	0	8
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	10
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	4
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	16
Meat:									
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	25
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	17
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	4
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	5
Poultry and Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	24
Whale Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	0
Miscellaneous:									
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	20
Dried Skimmed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	0	1
Tinned Goods:									
Milk 571 tins, Fish 177 tins, Meat 107 tins,						—	12	1	18
Vegetables 199 tins, Jam 125 tins, Fruit						—	7	1	27
92 tins, Soup 9 tins, Miscellaneous 21 tins						—	—	—	—
TOTAL WEIGHT						2	7	1	27

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

During the year a further survey of the whole of the Borough was carried out. Two maintenance treatments of the sewers were also undertaken.

Number of complaints received and dealt with	...	...	149
Number of premises visited during survey	...	...	1,827
Number of premises treated	...	...	244
Total estimated kill (Ministry of Agriculture formula)	...	...	2,564

### SHOPS ACTS, 1934.

Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	60
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Generally speaking, the provisions of the Shops Acts are well observed and it has not been necessary to take anything more than informal action to secure compliance where contraventions have been found.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

I am,  
 Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
 Your obedient servant,  
**T. H. IDDISON,**  
 Chief Sanitary Inspector.

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

## **(1) INSPECTIONS.**

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections	Number of Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	38	40	3	Nil.
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	100	139	17	Nil.
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' Premises) ...	4	10	Nil.	Nil.
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>142</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Nil.</b>

## **(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.**

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4) ..	5	5	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	9	9	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## **OUTWORK.**

### **SECTIONS 110 and 111.**

Nature of Work.	No. of Outworkers in Aug. List required by Section 110(1)(c).	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to Council.	No. of Prosecu- tions for Failure to Supply Lists.	No. of Instances of Work in Unwhole- some Premises.	Notices Served.	Prose- cutions.
<b>Wearing Apparel:</b>						
Making, etc. ... ..	7	None	None	None	None	None
Cleaning and Washing	None	None	None	None	None	None
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>7</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>



